

From: [Grindahl, Michele DDS Salem](#)
To: [JWMCC Exhibits](#)
Subject: RE: senate bill 1049
Date: Thursday, May 16, 2019 11:32:46 AM

To: Joint Committee on Ways & Means, Capital Construction
RE: Senate Bill 1049

Co-Chairs Mr. Holvey and Mr. Girod, members of the committee, et. al.,

My name is Michele Grindahl, I am a Disability Claim Specialist working for the Dept. of Human Services, Disability Determination Services (DDS) and I am a Tier 1 PERS member.

SB 1049 harms my retirement security by making unaffordable cuts to my individual account program. According to analysis from PERS, if this bill passes, my IAP would be cut by 7.8% This is a tax on my retirement benefits to pay the state's obligation to retirees. These cuts are VERY unfair AND illegal. And, most likely will eventually be overturned by the higher courts anyway, at great expense to taxpayers.

State workers like me already earn, on average, 88% of what we would earn in the private sector. We have agreed to lower salaries over the years to protect benefits. These reductions are a betrayal of those agreements.

This isn't just about how this impacts workers like me though, it's also about Oregon's ability to continue to recruit and retain a strong public workforce. Cutting benefits further hampers this effort. Also, about 30% of my colleagues are eligible to retire today. If SB 1049 passes, there will likely be a rush of retirements and our already overworked staff will struggle with workload issues in addition to losing more experienced workers.

I am a hard worker and have dedicated almost 25 years of my life to public service to the state of Oregon. I love my job and am passionate about the work my agency does. I have declined many private career opportunities over the years in order to continue my commitment to serve the public, in addition to the trade-offs in benefits compared to higher pay I could have earned elsewhere. I have kept my end of the deal. I urge you to PLEASE vote NO on SB 1049 and keep your promise to people like me.

Thank you,
Michele Grindahl
DHS/ Disability Determination Services
Disability Claim Specialist
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